THE BARRY TO ENTING THE PURKTY .- PHILADELPHIA THEBRY, OCTOBER OF THE

## A CAPITAL SKETCH.

SO IT IS IN RUSSIA. I resided in Russia many years, and I must, in justice, say that I thoroughly enjoyed my life in Me capital. Business succeeded well, my wealth was accumulating rapidly, and I felt that there was so extravagance in having luxuries, nor in allowing my family to enjoy them. We entered freely into society, and the Russians always breated us with the greatest kindness. Our children were growing up; the eldest had been educated in London, and had spent her holidays at her grandfather's, in Kent. A short time before we had been surprised by learning that she had formed an attachment with a young neighber of theirs, of good character.

As the season was almost too advanced for travelling, the young people petitioned that they might be married in England; and we at they might be married in England; and we at last consented, with the proviso that they were to pay us a visit in the following spring. I need not, however, dwell upon our family. The night I am about to speak of was in the depth of winter. Everything was freezing, and only Russians would dream of parties in such weather; but it was the height of the season in weather; but it was the height of the season in St. Petersburg, and the party we gave that evening was expected to go off brilliantly. Our friends were invited to come in masquerade, and we begged our intimates to disguise them-selves effectually. Our rooms were already crowded, when a stranger, or at least a strange figure, addressed me, saying he was obliged to leave early, and he trusted I would follow his example in returning home; he hoped he should not see me again.

not see me again.

I was astonished by the odd address. At first I thought he must have imbibed too freely of the sparkling wines in the refreshment saloon but then I remembered that they would hardly have been opened. Just then Count Vladimer came up and put his hand upon my shoulder,

"I should scarcely trouble to carry a mask in my hand, if I were you; for every one has seen your face, so that you cannot disguise yourself, even if you put it on. Pray! why are you looking

I repeated the words of my visitor, and said I could not forget them, although I knew they were of no consequence.
"I disagree with you," remarked my friend. "Those words must have been intended as a warning. I know that you have done many

waring. I know that you have done many kindnesses to our people, and one of them has wished to put you upon your guard."
"Oh! nonsense!" I answered; but the Count persisted. He reminded me that he had known and liked me for years, and he earnestly begged me to act upon the warning. At any rate, if he found that there were grounds for his suspicions,

that I would promise to act upon his advice.

"Very well," I said, and turned away.

In half an hour's time I met my friend, who whispered that he wished me to join him in the library, which we found deserted.

"My fears have been corroborated," said the Count; "you are suspected, and will be seized to-morrow, or at any moment, it you show signs of departure. You must quit St. Petersburg

"Nonsense!" I again repeated; "you do not suppose that I will leave my wife and children on the whispered joke of some scoundrel, per-

haps."

"I do not wish you to leave your wife and children," answered my friend: "take them with you, or possibly you may all be on the road."

with you, or possibly you may all be on the road to Siberia before you are aware, and it will be small comfort to you to know that you have done nothing wrong, and that perhaps, in twenty years' time you may be acquitted. Be warned in time by a sincere well-wisher."

The Count's argument had some effect, and I inquired what had best be done.

"Exchange dresses with me," was the answer: "but first order your people to pack a hamper full of catables, on the plea of a surprise for my children, and manage to have both wine and the brandy included; then quietly tell your wite to collect her valuables, and conceal them upon her person—she forcunately is wearing her diaher person—she fortunately is wearing her dia-monds; then return, and we will change dresses."

This was soon done. My poor wife was one of those valuable women who could take a hint without stunning one with questions. Mean-while, I personated Count Vladimer as well as was able, wearing the mask tightly fastened, as you may suppose.

The next time we met, my kind friend told me that his carriage was both warm and large, and well supplied with lurs, as they had a long drive from their country-seat. He thought our best plan would be to enter it as if we were leaving the parry, get fresh horses at Iverskoy, and reach the irontiers with speed; whilst he and his wife would personate us as long as taey

"But if there is any risk, you will be more

likely to suffer than a foreigner."
"Pardon me," he answered; "the Countess is nearly connected with the Empress, and a lavorite at Court: and they could not allege that we had done anything worthy of blame, for surely you might pay me a visit in the country with-out committing treason; and I could say, on oath, that I had no suspicion that you had been guilty of any crime to drive you from the country. On second thoughts, I think you had better leave your youngest child benind; he is too young to bear the journey, and I will promise that my wife will take the greatest cure of him:—and now prepare your family with all

I need scarcely say that Count Vladimer spoke English fluently, as compared with most of the Russians, and he acted the part of host capitally; whilst I persuaded the girls that we intended to carry on the joke of our disguise, and would try and take the servants in when we arrived at Iverskoy, the country seat of Count Vladimer. My daughters were fortunately dressed as Poles. and their sable pelisses, which early in the evening they had deemed as nuisances, were well qualified for a journey; and a large domino concealed effectually the thick shawls which scarcely suited the embroidered velvet dress of

my wife.

I lost no time in explaining matters to my family. My daughters could not believe their ears, whilst my wife seemed drowned in sor-row that her darling Charley should be left to the mercy of Russian barbarians.

My thoughtful friend had furnished me with a note to his confidential attendant, and no sooner was it read than he left me, whilst we recruited ourselves with the hot supper provided for his master. On his return he urged us to start directly. The ladies were wrapped still more warmly in furs and hoods, whilst I had an immense fur coat assigned to me, the outside being of sheepskin. Emily, my youngest daughter, declared that I looked exactly like a polar bear raised upon his hind legs. But to our dismay we found that our extra wraps had so increased our size that it was next to impossible to wedge myself into the carriage. What was to be done? I began to take of my coat,

but Vassilievitsch objected:—
"I would be sure to require it. Besides," he added, "would it not cause remark to see a carriage crowded to that extent with lords and ladies, and no servant to attend upon them? ladies, and no servant to attend upon Couldinot my lord personate a servant, and stay outside the carriage?

To this I agreed willingly. Vassilievitsch told me that I would find pipes, tobacco, and cigar-in the hamper, beneath the seat, and a few other

things which I might require.

At last we were off at a rattling pace. The Count's horses were first-rate, and they were well driven; but the night grew colder and colder. Abriety of mind seemed to have deadened my external feeling, and I only dreaded the want of horses. Imagine my delight when we arrived at the post-stage to find four horses in readiness. The Count had ordered one of his people to ride on and give notice of our coming people to ride on, and give notice of our coming upon business of importance. I had now recourse to the cigars beneath the seat, and a small lantern showed me a most heterogeneous mass of articles; a brace of pistols and ammunition were amongst the number, and thankful I was to see them, as I was determined to seli my life dearly if we were

hie dearly if we were pursued.

We continued our journey during the following day, the weather continuing fine though passports, and begge there abouted not be jower to prevent it.

cold. A great deal of snow had fallen during the past week, and the roads were heavy in consequence; towards night, the wind began to moan in a threatening manner. At the poel house we were strongly recommended to remain all night, as the next stage was through a large wood which was frequented by wolves, and the innkeeper told us that several oxen had suffered from them, though he did not think that they would dare to attack a carriage. Time was too precious for us to spare it for rest; so I said we must continue our journey at all risks. Despatches of consequence were in the carriage. We hurried on, for the wolves were on all sides, making the most horrid woise.

We made but slow progress. At last we came

making the most horrid noise.

We made but slow progress. At last we came to a dead stop. I disentangled myself as well as I was able from all my furs, and jumped to the ground. A tree had tallen down across the narrow road. Ivan then got a hatchet, and began to cut the top away. I saw that this must be a ledious business, and trembled for the result. The wolves seemed to be creeping nearer and nearer, and they might attack our horses at any moment. I took the hatchet from horses at any moment. I took the hatchet from Ivan's hands, and begged him to look after his

artic: but I had soon to relinquish it, that I might answer the questions of the women. One of them was sure that the wolves were near.

"I am afraid so," was the reply: "that is the reason we are so hurried about the tree; if we can only keep them at a distance till the passage is free, I have no fear."

"Make a fire," cried one of the girls: "that is

"Make a fire," cried one of the girls; "that is the way they frighten lions and tigers," "Yes, but lions and tigers usually reside in bot countries, where sticks are dry," answered I; "but I will speak to our driver about it." I found him holding with difficulty the startled and frightened animals, and inquired whether a

fire would be practicable.
"The best thing that can be done," said he; "get everything you can spare from the car-riage, and if once you can get a blaze, the ir tops may knidle."

On telling the ladies, I found they were determined to be useful; so I left it to them, and worked hard at the tree, whilst Ivan instructed my daughters; the lid of a box and some straw ere soon ignited, and not a bit too soon. The wolves had drawn so near that we could hear them snarling as they hustled one another. But my work was nearly done; the horses were fastened strongly to the trees, and Ivan assisted

me in lifting the wood.

When once the road was clear, we started;
my wife had given Ivan a bottle of brandy, and put another on my seat; and much we needed it, for the cold was intense. Belore long, the driver told me one of his horses was lame; he could not keep up with the others. As our speed diminished, our enemies crept nearer. I thought of the mask. I had kicked it under the scat, and I remembered the old school-boy dodge of frightening one's friends by putting a light within it. My little lantern would be the very thing. I fastened it to the mask, and waited till the wolves drew nearer, then threw it in front of them. The half-starved brutes were startled; they could not make it out. The mask had fortunately fallen so that the light shone through the eyes and mouth, and I saw them stop; the foremosi went up to it, but seemed afraid to touch it. But the wolves in the rear were impatient, and pushed the others on; one fell upon the mask, and evidently crushed the lantern, for the light went out, and

again the wretches were in pursuit.

"We cannot be saved," said Ivan, at length,
"unless you can think of something else."

"If I had but a rope," I shouted, "I might do
something."

omething. "Then eatch this," he answered, and threw good-sized piece over the top of the carriage; "l brought it in case the harness broke."

I pulled off my long boot which was lined with sheepskin, with a band of fur round the top, and prayed, as I fastened the rope securely round the instep, that our hungry foes might mistake it for a trap. I then threw it over, and had the pleasure of seeing it bump most satis-factorily along, the wolves keeping at a most respectful distance. This continued for minute or two, and then our lame horse fell, "We must leave him," cried Ivan, jumping down as he spoke, and I followed his example, cutting the harness with our knives.

"Have your pistols ready," said the Russian.
"whilst I fasten the traces—the wolves are upon

And so it was. My boot no longer served to frighten them. It now lay quiet on the snow, and I had just time to turn and shoot the foremost as he was making a spring.

"Mount!" shouted the driver, and I sprang on to the step, managing to shoot an immense wolf who was rushing at one of the borses.

"We are free now," I said to Ivan; "the wolves will surely remain with the lame horse." "Yes, I think we are," he answered; "but load your pistols: if we do not reach the post-house before they overtake us we shall find them more savage than ever; that poor brute will not be a mouthful for each of them."

But at the edge of the wood we saw the walls of the post-house, just as the pack rushed into the brighter light. They felt they were foiled, and shrank away howling dismally. As to the ladies, they were really more dead than alive when we helped them out of the carriage, and we all agreed that we must take an hour's rest

before we started.

As we reached the frontier another doubt arose. Our passports were en route, but I had them only for my wife, myself, and one of my daughters; they had been made out when we talked of joining my eldest daughter and her husband in Paris, and they were likely to be of service; but how was I to manage about Emma and Carry? After some deliberation I decided to consult our driver, who had behaved so well in our escape from the wolves. So telling the ladies that they might have a short rest at a comfortable little post-house which we had reached, I joined Ivan, offering him a share of my brandy-bottle, and asked if he had not been long in the service of Count Viadimer.
"I was a serf, born on his land," was his reply; "and my father was before me."
"Is he not a good master?" I inquired.

"He is, indeed, my lord, for so he persisted in calling me. "Ah! it all vassals were as fortunate as I have been, Russia would be a different country from what it is." I said I believed his master trusted him, and

would do the same. I wanted to know what I had best do, as I had not passports for two of my daughters, and I dared not apply to the officials of the frontier towns.
"I tear you would not be allowed to pass," he said; "but could you not get them across the river Memel, and then pick them up after going

through the nearest town? 'How do you mean ?" I inquired. "When we get to Meretch," Ivan answered, "I could turn aside, for I know the part quite well. The river must be frozen hard at this time, and I or my lord might take the young ladies over, leave them in a cottage close to the banks of the Memel, and then return to the carriage and drive to Meretch, where you

can show your payers."

This plan I deemed feasible, although the idea of leaving two young ladies at the mercy of strangers was repugnant to my feelings. But when I told my daughters about it they both declared that they had no fear, and that they would much rather cross the ice than be

detained perhaps for weeks at Meretch.
On the banks of the river another difficulty arose. There was no passport for Ivan, and yet we were most unwilling to part from him. "My lord must condescend to act as driver," said Ivan, "and I can see the young ladies across the river, and protect them from dauger if necessary. Or I can stay with the carriage, and on arriving at Meretch pretend to return to St. Petersburg, and seize the first opportu-

The last plan would have taken too much The last plan would have taken too much time, so I told him we had full confidence in him, and promised him a handsome reward it we reached Paris in safety; and so we parted.

We had not much trouble in Meretch. When I produced my passports, I said my business was of importance; an hour saved was sometimes worth a fortune to a merchant like me, and if the official would kindly assist me by naving any dues that were required. I should paying any dues that were required, I should feel everlastingly in lebted to him. So saving, I slipped a bag of money into his willing fingers.
He gave a look of intelligence, glanced at my passports, and begged me not to dismount—there should not be a hindrance if he had the

When out of the town my heart bounded. We were once more free! I trusted to join the girls in an bour or so, and lost no time on the road; but the path was a winding one, and there were numerous cross-roads; however, I took the river as my guide, and in course of time we reached a cottage, but could hear nothing of our little party. Further on we met an old woman, who made us understand that she had seen two girls whom a Russian was taking before the authorities, as he feared they were spies. "But they looked both good and modest, an'l my heart ached for them," she added with a sigh. After giving her a trifle, we hastened on, and soon overlook my weary children. Ivan had seen some military resting in the cottage when he peeped in through the narrow window, and feared that unpleasant inquiries might be made, so he concocted this story, which he was sure would win the heart of any peasant.

The girls told me that the poor woman had been very kind; she had brought them black bread and cheese in her apron, and milk from her little dairy, though Ivan had pretended that he could not allow them to stop and rest. My daughters said they would never forget his kindness and thoughtfulness; and, indeed, he has proved a most faithful servant; he is now my gamekeeper at — . His master thought it would be scarcely prudent for him to return to

my gamekeeper at —. His master thought it would be scarcely prudent for him to return to

Vladimir.

A day later I could not have left the capital for I should have been in prison; for the authorities had heard that I was connected with the English press. Nothing could be more absurd; but so it is in Russia.

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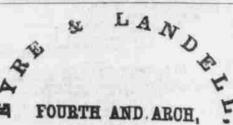
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